



Life Course

Childhood Risk Factor

Brief Name

Children in Poverty

Indicator

Percent of children who are living in poverty.

Description

This metric is the percent of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), defined by family income and size.

WI	US	Best	Worst
36.9%*	42.8%	24.8%	56.4%
		NH	MS

Year

2015

Numerator

Number of children in families under 200% of FPL

Denominator

Children aged 0-18

*Indicates statistically significant difference from the US value at $p < 0.05$.

Importance

Financial strain can lead to family stress and difficult choices about how to prioritize meeting their basic needs. Poverty is also associated with more frequent stressful experiences, such as family conflict, divorce, and abuse, which can lead to delays in accessing health care, poor nutrition, unstable housing, and violence. The stressful experiences associated with chronic and episodic poverty have been identified as risk factors for mental health symptoms among children and youth (Duncan, 1994).

Limitations

FPL is not adjusted based on cost of living across the US.

Source

Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Supplementary Survey, 2002 through 2015 American Community Survey. Accessed at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/47-children-below-200-percent-poverty#national>. FPL is based on household makeup and total income. FPL definitions can be found here: <https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/federal-poverty-level-FPL/>. Duncan, Greg J., Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, and Pamela Kato Klebanov. "Economic deprivation and early childhood development." Child Development, 65.2 (1994): 296-318.